

Dear Senator Harp,

March 29, 2011

My name is Michaela Lourenco and I am a sophomore in the Ellis Clark regional agriscience program and technology program in Woodbury. I live in New Milford and I attend this regional agriscience school choice Program because I am interested in cows. When I am older I would like to start my own dairy and beef farm. From this program I have learned how to properly own and manage cows for the milking and beef production. If I had not come to this school and I went to my home town school I would not have had an advantage as I do now since the ag program has given me one. I work at an animal shelter in New Milford. When I am at work I walk dogs, play with dogs and cats. I also clean kennels, give shots, and bathe cats and dogs. I like working with the dogs the best because I have 3 of my own. The dogs at work are easy to train because I have experience from training all 3 of my dogs. In the FFA I have learned leadership and responsibility.

I am writing this letter to encourage you to **please urge the Appropriations Committee to pledge 9 million dollars of the school choice funding increases proposed in the Governor's budget to the state's 19 regional (vo-ag) agriscience programs.**

Our agriscience programs have been drastically underfunded for over 20 years as compared to the magnet schools, charter schools, vocational technical schools and the other school choice funding programs. (Please see attached flyer with details)
This will allow hundreds of more students like me to enroll in these successful programs so they will have the same positive experience I am having now.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Michaela Lourenco

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